

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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TAGS: PARM, UNGA, XO

SUBJECT: UNGA STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ)

REF.: A)NEW DELHI 17699; B) STATE 285827

1. STATEMENT MADE IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON IOPZ RESOLUTION IN UNGA DIFFERED SLIGHTLY FROM VERSION CONTAINED REFTEL B.

2. IN PUBLISHING US VIEWS ON IOPZ, EMBASSY SHOULD USE FOLLOWING STATEMENT DELIVERED IN UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 29 (A/C1/31/PV.44): QUOTE, THE UNITED STATES FULLY SHARES THE DESIRES OF THE NATIONS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY AND THEIR WISH NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO MILITARY PRESSURE BY OUTSIDE POWERS. WE HAVE LONG APPRECIATED THESE OBJECTIVES. OUR ACTIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONSISTENT WITH OUR SUPPORT OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATES

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OF THE REGION. IT IS OUR LONG-STANDING VIEW THAT STABILITY

IN THE AREA SERVES NOT ONLY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE REGIONAL STATES, BUT ALSO UNITED STATES INTEREST AND THE BROADER OBJECTIVES OF WORLD PEACE. WE THUS ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND WE HOPE THAT A SIMILAR

COMMITMENT WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE ACTIONS OF OTHER OUTSIDE POWERS.

THE UNITED STATES DEPLOYS ONLY MODEST FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, REFLECTING ITS CONCERN AND THE CONCERN OF OTHER STATES THAT THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION VITAL TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND STABILITY NOT BE SUBJECTED TO PRESSURE BY ANYONE. WE ARE AS ANXIOUS AS THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES TO AVOID MANIFESTATIONS OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE AREA AND TO LOWER, RATHER THAN RAISE, THE TENSIONS THEREIN. IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT UNITED STATES NAVAL DEPLOYMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS NOT INCREASING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF RESTRAINT IN OUR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA, AND WE LOOK TO OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE.

THE PRESENT RESOLUTION IS DIRECTED TOWARDS OUR SHARED GOAL OF ASSURING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION. IN THE VIEW OF MY GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IT RAISES SOME OF THE SAME PROBLEMS AS DID ITS PREDECESSORS, AND SOME NEW ONES:

FIRST, BY ITS PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE RESOLUTION OF 1971, THIS RESOLUTION CAN BE INTERPRETED AS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LITTORAL STATES OF THE REGION HAVE THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A LEGAL REGIME FOR THE HIGH SEAS IN THAT REGION.

SECOND, IT_OPTS TOO READILY AND UNCRITICALLY FOR A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE AS THE BEST WAY OF ADDRESSING INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATION. IN OUR VIEW, PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT A COMPETITIVE EXPANSION OF MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA SHOULD BE BASED ON RESTRAINT BY THE STATES IN THE REGION AND RESTRAINT BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GREAT POWERS.

THIRD, IN THE COLOMBO RESOLUTION OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, REFERRED TO IN THE PREAMBLE OF THIS RESOLUTION, THE UNITED STATES FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA IS SINGLED OUT FOR ATTENTION WHILE ONLY VEILED REFERENCES ARE MADE TO THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF OTHER POWERS THAT ARE EXTERNAL TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT

COMPARABLE ACTIVITIES BY DIFFERENT STATES ARE TO BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT STANDARDS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE INTENT OF THE STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION THAT HAVE PREPARED THE PRESENT RESOLUTION, BECAUSE SUCH AN APPROACH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THESE IMPORTANT SECURITY QUESTIONS IN A SERIOUS, BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE MANNER.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS ABSTAINED IN THE VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CANDID AND OPEN IN MAKING PUBLIC THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF OUR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE WOULD URGE OTHER NATIONS TO BE EQUALLY CANDID IN DISCUSSING THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES. TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN THERE MUST BE RESTRAINT AND OPENNESS ON THE PART OF ALL STATES CONCERNED. THIS CAN BE PROMOTED ONLY IF THOSE SEEKING THE STATED OBJECTIVES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE INITIATIVE PURSUE A BALANCED APPROACH.

THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO THE GOALS OF PEACE, STABILITY AND SECURITY FOR THE STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION AND FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY ANY REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL TO ADVANCE THESE OBJECTIVES. UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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